

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-12, 16, 17 and 19-52 are currently pending in the application. Claim 9 is amended for informalities. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

**I. INTERVIEW ON OCTOBER 3, 2006**

The Examiner is gratefully thanked for conducting a telephonic interview with the undersigned Applicant's representative on October 3, 2006. No claims or prior art references were discussed at the telephonic interview. The Examiner clarified that the Office sent two different Office Actions, a correct one and another incorrect one, and the summary sheet of the correct Office Action includes typographical errors. The Examiner found the correct Office Action and said the current status of this application should be under non-final rejection. The response to the correct non-final Office Action follows.

**II. OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIM**

Claim 9 stands objected to because of informalities. Claim 9 has been amended as per the suggestion by the Examiner.

**III. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-12, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,292,765 to Ho et al (Ho) in view of Raimi (U.S. Patent No. 5,604,895) (Raimi) and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,594,799 to Robertson et al. (Robertson) and U.S. Patent No. 4,694,411 to Burrows (Burrows). Claims 19-22 and 46-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson in view of Raimi. Claims 23-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burrows in view of Robertson and Berry et al. (Berry). Claims 35-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burrows in view of Robertson and in further view of Berry and Raimi. Claim 52 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson in view of Berry in further view of Ho. Applicant respectfully traverses.

These rejections are improper because Robertson is disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(c). Robertson is a 102(e) reference, and the present application and Robertson have common assignee at the time of the invention of the present application.

102(e) Reference

The present application has a filing date of August 28, 2000. The Robertson reference was filed on February 28, 2000 and was patented on July 15, 2003. Therefore, Robertson is a 102(e) reference with respect to the present application. In addition, Robertson does not qualify as a 102(a), (b), (c) or (d) reference.

Common Ownership

The present application and Robertson were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by Cadence Design Systems, Inc. (e.g. Reel/Frame: 015676/0055). (see MPEP 7706.02(l)(2)).

Therefore, Robertson is disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(c). (see MPEP 706.02(l)(3)).

The Examiner uses Robertson to teach at least facilitating circuits for chip design in a portal in all the rejections. However, Robertson is disqualified as prior art as stated above. The other cited prior art, singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least facilitating circuits for chip design in a portal. Because Robertson is disqualified as prior art, and none of the other prior art teach or suggest that feature of the claims, these rejections are improper because not all the features of the claims are taught by the prior art.

Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections for claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-12, 16, 17 and 19-52 should be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

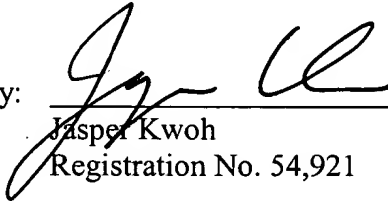
Based on the foregoing, all remaining claims are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this response, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-2518, referencing billing number 7010632001. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any underpayment to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-2518, referencing billing number 7010632001.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bingham McCutchen LLP

Dated: December 15, 2006

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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